



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

Kanawha County, WV

BACKGROUND

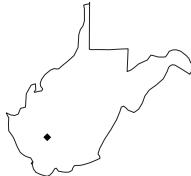
EPA has selected Kanawha County for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. Kanawha County is located in the Appalachian region of west central West Virginia. The Pilot targets brownfields in communities within the Kelly's Creek watershed, which includes the towns of Monarch, Shrewsbury, Cedar Grove, Ward, Mammoth, Glasgow, and Riverside. Under the Pilot, the county will work with the Kelly's Creek Communities Association (KCCA) to target potential brownfields in these communities, where the perception of contamination from former coal mining is driving away residents and stifling new business and industrial investment. The county plans to use the West Virginia Abandoned Mine Land Inventory, water quality data provided by the state, community input, and other data sources to prepare an inventory and prioritize sites to be assessed.

From the early 1800s, communities within the Kelly's Creek watershed (population 5,870) thrived as the coal mining industry and other businesses provided steady jobs and adequate incomes. The post World War II decline of the area's coal industry and related businesses left the watershed communities with no economic stability and residents with no transferable job skills. Currently, the unemployment rate in these communities averages 11 percent, and per capita income is \$9,036. Twenty percent of the residents live below the poverty level.

OBJECTIVES

The county's objective is to take the first steps toward making economic recovery feasible in the Kelly's Creek watershed. The Pilot hopes to accomplish this objective by actively engaging the community in a sustained cooperative effort to create an inventory of brownfields throughout the 24-square-mile watershed area; prioritize these sites using measures such as public safety, redevelopment potential,

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Kanawha County,
West Virginia*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: This Pilot will target sites in the 24-square mile Kelly's Creek watershed, which is economically distressed due to declines in the coal industry since World War II.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 3 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bfs/index.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

and economic feasibility; conduct Phase I and Phase II assessments on priority sites; and develop a strategic plan for cleanup and redevelopment of the priority sites that is acceptable to all project participants.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of the Pilot include:

- Creating an inventory and prioritizing brownfields in the watershed;
- Performing Phase I and Phase II assessments of priority sites; and
- Engaging local community members in all phases of the Pilot.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.